

## ARGUMENT FOR PATENTABILITY

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended. No claims have been added or cancelled. Thus, claims 1-24 remain subject to continued examination.

### 35 USC 112, first paragraph rejection

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner asserts that the claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Specifically, the Office Action takes the position that there is an insufficient basis for the specific recitation of mechanical separation. Please note that Claim 1 has been amended to remove the offending language relating to mechanical separation in favor of the original language reciting that the filaments are longitudinally separable. Applicants believe that this amendment is sufficient to overcome the rejection and respectfully request that it be withdrawn.

### Art Rejections

As best understood, all prior art rejections have been overcome or obviated.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of all of the previous remarks, it is respectfully requested that the Request for Continued Examination be accepted and the above amendments and remarks be entered. Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are presently in condition for allowance. Entry of this Amendment and issuance of a Formal Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

Should any issues remain after consideration of this Response, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned in the hope that any such issue may be resolved in an expedient manner.

To any extent required, a request for extension of time is hereby made. In the event that there are any fees (including extension of time fees) associated with the submission of these papers, Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to withdraw such fees from Deposit Account No. 04-0500.

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Respectfully submitted,



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